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**edge** \ 'eɪdʒ / *n* : having an edge planed  
**edgestitch** \ 'eɪdʒstɪtʃ / *v* : to seam or stitch for c  
old line of (a piece of cloth)  
**edgestone** \ 'eɪdʒstəʊn / *n* 1 : CURBSTONE 2 : a  
edge mill  
**edge strip** *n* : a strap for a butt joint in rivet  
when used for a fore-and-aft joint in a ship  
**edge tone** *n* : a tone produced by an air stre  
sharp edge (as in a flute)  
**edge tool** *n* 1 : a tool with a sharp cutting  
plane, knife, or gouge) 2 : a tool for form:  
edge : an edging tool  
**edge trim** *n* : a contour (as bevel or rounding)  
the edge of a sole  
**edgewater** \ 'eɪdʒwɔːtər / *n* : water underlying pe  
bearing sand — compare EDGE WELL  
**edgeways or edgewise** \ 'eɪdʒweɪz / *adv* : with th  
foremost ; on, by, or with the edge (saw  
; as if by an edge : BARELY — chiefly used i  
word in edgeways (had to raise his voice to  
—George Bellairs)  
**edge well** *n* : a well on the edge of an oil or  
edg-ily \ 'eɪdʒlɪ-, -li / *adv* : in an edgy manner  
**edg-i-ness** \ 'eɪdʒənəs-, -jɪn-/ *n* -ES 1 : sharpr  
of outline (the ~ of a fresh-cut gem —R.C.E.  
condition of being on edge : NERVOUSNESS  
**edging n-s** [ 'edge + -ing ] 1 : something th  
or border: as a : a narrow piece of lace, fri  
with one straight edge used to finish or dec  
joining on clothing, upholstery, or curtains  
plants, wood, metal or bricks used to define  
bed or lawn) or the material used for such a  
solid wood squares set into the edge of a  
protect the veneer d : a narrow rounded  
strip (as of metal) on the edge of a flat su  
top or ski) for decoration or protection  
waste wood produced in edging  
**edging box** *n* : a dwarf box (*Buxus semper-*  
*tica*) that is used esp. for edging (as aroun  
den)  
**edging grinder** *n* : a cutting machine for g  
wood  
**edg-ing-ly** *adv* : little by little : GRADUALLY  
**edgy** \ 'eɪdʒɪ-, -ji / *adj* LER/-EST 1 : SHARP, EDGED  
a perceptive, ~ wit —*New Yorker* (the voc  
occasion was raw and ~ —Irving Kolodin)  
in line or outline 2 : being on edge : TENS  
TABLE (looked well, though a little tired and  
(the ~ days before World War I —*Saturday*  
became ~ —Gordon Webber)  
**eth or eth** \ 'eθ / *n* -s [*Icel eth*] : a letter ð for  
across the simple *d* used in Old English  
writing to represent an interdental fricative  
national Phonetic alphabet to represent the  
fricative (as in *then*) — compare THORN 3  
**ed-i-bil-i-ty** \ 'edə'bɪlədə-, -ətē-, -i / *n* -ES : the  
of being edible  
**'ed-i-ble** \ 'edəblə / *adj* [LL *edibilis*, fr. L *ede-*  
-ible — more at EAT] : suitable by nature fo  
for human beings : NONPOISONOUS, EATABLE  
*n* -ES  
**2edible** \ " / *n* -s : something that is edible (st  
food to stricken families . . . only cold ~s  
—*N.Y. Times*)  
**edible bird's nest** *n* : the nest of various sn  
*Collocalia*) of southern Asia and neighbori  
made chiefly of the dried glutinous secretio  
glands of the birds and is used in making so  
**edible canna** *n* : an Asiatic herb (*Canna edu-*  
its starchy rootstocks — see TOUS-LES-MOIS  
**edible dormouse** *n* : any of various comm  
mice (genus *Glis*) esp. of the Mediterranean  
**edible frog** *n* : a European frog (*Rana escul-*  
**edible galangale** *n* : CHUFU  
**edible-podded pea** \ 'ɛdə-, --- / or edible pod  
: a pea of a variety (*Pisum sativum macroca-*  
pods  
**edible snail** *n* : a snail used as food (as *Helli-*  
*aspersa* of Europe)  
**edict** \ 'ɛ,(di)kt, 'edɛkt, archaic 'eɪ-/ *n* -s [L  
of *edictus*, past part. of *edicere* to declare,  
*dicere* to say — more at DICTION] 1 a : a pu  
by official ecclesiastical or state authority : a  
or ordinance by the sovereign power : the p  
law or rule of conduct made by competent a  
pare DECREE, RESCRIPT b : an order or  
when suggesting such an official public no  
won't notice it and issue bitter ~s about slo  
night) 2 : the order of the court in Scots ar  
law commanding that notice of a pending  
suit be given to an absent or nonresident def

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## edge

**NOUN:** 1. A dominating position, as in a conflict: advantage, better<sup>1</sup>, bulge, draw, drop, superiority, upper hand, vantage. *Informal* : inside track, jump. See OVER. 2. A fairly narrow line or space forming a boundary: border, borderline, brim, brink, edging, fringe, margin, periphery, rim, verge. *Chiefly Military* : perimeter. See EDGE. 3. A cutting quality: bite, incisiveness, keenness, sharpness, sting. See SHARP. 4. The cutting part of a sharp instrument: blade. See SHARP. 5. The periphery of a city or town: environs, fringe, outskirt (often used in plural), skirt (used in plural), suburb (used in plural). See EDGE. 6. A transitional interval beyond which some new action or different state of affairs is likely to begin or occur: borderline, brink, point, threshold, verge. See EDGE.

**VERB:** 1. To put or form a border on: border, bound<sup>2</sup>, fringe, margin, rim, skirt, verge. See EDGE. 2. To advance carefully and gradually: ease, sidle. See CAREFUL, MOVE. 3. To introduce gradually and slyly: foist, infiltrate, insinuate, wind<sup>2</sup>, work, worm. See ENTER. 4. To give a sharp edge to: acuminate, hone<sup>1</sup>, sharpen, whet. See SHARP.

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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

## edge

**PRONUNCIATION:** ěj

**NOUN:** **1a.** A thin, sharpened side, as of the blade of a cutting instrument. **b.** The degree of sharpness of a cutting blade. **c.** A penetrating, incisive quality: *"His simplicity sets off the satire, and gives it a finer edge"* (William Hazlitt). **d.** A slight but noticeable sharpness or harshness: *His voice had an edge to it.* **2.** Keenness, as of desire or enjoyment; zest: *The brisk walk gave an edge to my appetite.* **3a.** The line of intersection of two surfaces: *the edge of a brick; the table's rounded edges.* **b.** A rim or brink: *the edge of a cliff.* **c.** The point at which something is likely to begin: *on the edge of war.* **4a.** The area or part away from the middle; an extremity: *lifted the carpet's edge.* **b.** A dividing line; a border: *a house on the edge of town.* See synonyms at **border.** **5.** A margin of superiority; an advantage: *a slight edge over the opposition.* **6.** A provocative or discomforting quality, as from audacity or innovativeness: *"Over all, the show will have a grittier edge"* (Constance C.R. White, *New York Times* January 2, 1996).

**VERB:** Inflected forms: **edged**, **edgĭng**, **edgĕs**

**TRANSITIVE VERB:** **1a.** To give an edge to (a blade); sharpen. **b.** To tilt (a ski or both skis) in such a way that an edge or both edges bite into the snow. **2a.** To put a border or edge on: *edged the quilt with embroidery.* **b.** To act as or be an edge of: *bushes that edged the garden path.* **3.** To advance or push slightly or gradually: *The dog edged the ball with its nose.* **4.** To trim or shape the edge of: *edge a lawn.*

**INTRANSITIVE VERB:** To move gradually or hesitantly: *The child edged toward the door.*

**PHRASAL VERB:** **edge out** To surpass or beat by a small margin: *The runner edged her*

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*opponent out at the last moment.*

**IDIOMS:** **on edge** Highly tense or nervous; irritable. **on the edge** 1. In a precarious position. 2. In a state of keen excitement, as from danger or risk: "*the excitement of combat, of living on the edge*" (Nelson DeMille).

**ETYMOLOGY:** Middle English *egge*, from Old English *ecg*. See **ak-** in Appendix I.

**OTHER FORMS:** **edge'less** —ADJECTIVE

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